



HUD NEWS

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FOR RELEASE

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HUD FAIR HOUSING OFFICIAL LAUNCHES INNOVATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM AT TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY *National Fair Housing Collegiate Partnership will train students.*

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, in recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 18, 2010, will launch its first-ever National Fair Housing Collegiate Partnership on the campus of Tennessee State University (TSU) in Nashville.

“To honor Dr. King, we will train the next generation of leaders and activists in fair housing,” stated HUD’s Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity John D. Trasviña.

This partnership is designed to promote fair housing and educate students about their rights under the Fair Housing Act which prohibits discrimination in housing based on race, color, national origin, sex, religion, families with children, or disability.

In addition, campuses will develop service-learning opportunities with local fair housing groups and encourage students to consider public service as a career. Trasviña will join TSU President Melvin N. Johnson to sign a proclamation marking the official start of the National Fair Housing Collegiate Partnership Campaign.

“In 1963, Dr. King had a dream. Through this partnership, HUD empowers today’s students to act on that dream in 2010,” said Trasviña. “HUD is committed to ensuring that every door is open to our next generation of renters and homebuyers. We will accomplish this through education and vigorously enforcing the law.”

“Tennessee State University is honored to have been selected as the host institution to kick off the National Fair Housing Collegiate Partnership. For almost 100 years, TSU has produced globally prepared students who--like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.--dream of fairness and equality. Today, this partnership will continue to ensure that all students are treated fairly and equally under the law, and that all exercise their rights to fair housing,” Johnson said in making the announcement. “TSU along with HUD encourages all students to become public servants and citizens of the world, ensuring equality and fairness to all.”

This is the first of a series of educational partnerships by HUD at campuses across the country. HUD will take this message to Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government on February 24, 2010 and plans are underway to visit colleges and universities throughout the year. HUD investigates over 10,000 housing discrimination complaints annually. People who believe they are the victims of housing discrimination should contact HUD at 1-800-669-9777 (voice), 800-927-9275 (TTY). Additional information is available at www.hud.gov/fairhousing. Stay on top of the most up-to-date news regarding the Fair Housing Act by signing up for the FHEO RSS Feed at www.hud.gov/offices/fheo/index.cfm.

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HUD is the nation's housing agency committed to sustaining homeownership; creating affordable housing opportunities for low-income Americans; and supporting the homeless, elderly, people with disabilities and people living with AIDS. The Department also promotes economic and community development and enforces the nation's fair housing laws. More information about HUD and its programs is available on the Internet at www.hud.gov and espanol.hud.gov.